(d) and (e) Based on the representations received from the public, the State Environmental Impact Assessment Authority, Uttar Pradesh have advised the Government of Uttar Pradesh to carry out comprehensive Environment Impact Assessment taking into consideration the intensity of sedimentation of River Ganga, impact on biodiversity, reduction of flow of water in the river and make necessary changes in the project incorporating the environmental issues.

Effects of noise pollution

1432. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that apart from hearing loss, noise can cause lack of sleep, irritation, heartburn, indigestion, ulcers, high blood pressure and possible heart disease and so on;

(b) whether Government is also aware that this menace is aggravating in the metros day by day; and

(c) if so, the action plan of Government to address this issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Noise may pose health risks depending upon the intensity of ambient noise levels and extent of exposure.

(b) and (c) Noise levels are increasing in metros. The steps taken by the Government to address this issue include the following:

— Noise standards at manufacturing stage from motor vehicles, generator-sets, fire-crackers and ambient noise standards for control of noise pollution from loudspeaker/ public address system have been notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

— Central Pollution Control Board is monitoring ambient noise in residential areas along the major roads in Delhi due to traffic for the last three years at 7 locations. Similar noise monitoring studies have also been extended to other three metros *viz.* Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata.

Tiger projects in various states

1433. SHRI BHAGIRATHI MAJHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Tiger Task Force has proposed to set up another tiger project in State of Orissa and other seven projects in Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Assam and Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether the Central Finance Committee has also decided to disburse funds under Eleventh Finance Commission, the details of funds allocated and its projects;

(c) whether Similipal Tiger Project at Mayurbhanj is being provided funds/grants for maintenance of security and afforestation of it and to maintain its status;

(d) whether the very purpose of these projects across the country are being conserved; and

(e) if not, the action being taken by Government to upkeep its objectives?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) Approval has been accorded for eight new tiger reserves spread over seven States, based on proposal received and as recommended by the Steering Committee of the Project Tiger in its 37th meeting held on 23-01-2003. Details are given in Statement-I (*see* below).

(b) During the XIth Plan period, a tentative allocation of Rs. 600 crores has been made to the ongoing Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project Tiger, which, *inter-alia*, includes funding support to the eight new tiger reserves.

(c) to (e) Yes Sir. The details of Central Assistance provided to Similipal Tiger Reserve during the last three years are given Statement-II (*See* below). Project Tiger has put the endangered tiger on a course of recovery. Recent tiger estimation figures as per the refined methodology endorsed by the Tiger Force, indicate a poor status of tiger population in areas outside tiger reserves and protected areas. The tiger population, by and large, in tiger reserves and protected areas of such States are viable, while requiring onging conservation efforts. The initiatives taken by Government of India for conserving tiger and other wild animals are at Statement-III.

Statement-I

List of the new tiger reserves in various states

Sl.No.	Name of the New Tiger Reserve	State
1.	Annamalai-Parambikulam Wildlife Sanctuaries	Tamil Nadu & Kerala
2.	Udanti and Sita Nadi Wildlife Sanctuaries	Chhattisgarh
3.	Satkosia wildlife Sanctuary	Orissa
4.	Kaziranga National Park	Assam
5.	Achanakmar Wildlife Sanctuary	Chhattisgarh
6.	Dandeli Wildlife Sanctuary and Anshi National Park	Karnataka
7.	Sanjay National Park and Sanjay Dubri Wildlife Sanctuary	Madhya Pradesh
8.	Mudumalai Wildlife Sanctuary	Tamil Nadu

Statement-II

Details of central assistance projected to Similipal Tiger Reserve during the last three years

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the Tiger Reserve	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
1.	Similipal Tiger Reserve	116.4395	80.00	183.8717

Statement-III

The steps taken by the Government for covering tiger and other wild animals

Legal steps

1. Amendment of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 for providing enabling provisions for constitution of the National Tiger Conservation Authority and the Tiger and Other Endangered Species Crime Control Bureau.The punishment in cases of offence within a tiger reserve has been enhanced. The Act also provides for forfeiture of any equipment, vehicle or weapon that has been used for committing any wild life offence.

Administrative steps

2. Strengthening of antipoaching activities, including special strategy for monsoon patrolling, by providing funding support to Reserve States, as proposed by them, for deployment of antipoaching squades involving ex-army personnel/homeguards, apart from workforce comprising of local people, in addition to strengthening of communication/wireless facilities.

3. 100% Central Assistance provided to 17 Tiger Reserves as an additionality for deployment of Tiger Protection Force, comprising of ex-army personnel and local workforce.

4. Constitution of the National Tiger Conservation Authority with effect from 4.09.2006,for strengthening tiger conservation by, *inter-alia*, ensuring normative standards in tiger reserve management, preparation of reserve specific tiger conservation plan, laying down annual/audit report Parliament, constituting State level Steering Committee under the Chairmanship of Chief Ministers and establishment of Tiger Conservation Foundation.

5. Constitution of a multidisciplinary Tiger and Other Endangered Species Crime Control Bureau (Wildlife Crime Control Bureau) with effect from 6.6.2007 comprising of officers from Police, Forest, Customs and other enforcement agencies to effectively control illegal trade in wildlife.

6. Approval accorded for declaring eight new Tiger Reserves.

7. The revised Project Tiger guidelines have been issued to States for strengthening tiger conservation, which apart from ongoing activities, *inter-alia*, including funding support to States for enhanced relocation/rehabilitation package for people living in core or critical tiger habitats (from Rs. 1 lakh/family to Rs. 10 lakh/family), rehabilitation/resettlement of communities involved in traditional hunting and mainstreaming livlihood and wildlife concerns in forests outside tiger reserves and fostering corridor conservation through restorative strategy to arrest habitat fragmentation.

8. A scientific methodology for estimating tiger (including copredators, prey animals and assessment of habitat status) has been evolved and mainstreamed. The findings of this estimation/assessment are benchmarks for future tiger conservation strategy.

9. Around 31111 sq. km. of critical/core tiger habitat identified in 17 States.

10. Memorandum of Understanding developed for better/concerted implementation of conservation inputs through tiger reserve States.

Financial steps

11. Financial and technical help provided to the states under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes, *viz.* Project Tiger and Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries for enhancing the capacity and infrastructure of the States for providing effective protection to wild animals.

International Cooperation

12. India has Memorandum of Understanding with Nepal on controlling trans-boundary illegal trade in wildlife and conservation, apart from a protocol on tiger conservation with China.

13. A Global Tiger Forum of Tiger Range Countries has been created for addressing international issues related to tiger conservation.

14. During the 14th meeting of the Conference of Parties to CITES, which was held from 3rd to 15th June, 2007 at The Hague, India introduced a resolution along with China, Nepal and the Russian Federation, with directions to Parties with operations breeding tigers on a commercial scale, for restricting such captive populations to a level supportive only to conserving wild tigers. The resolution was adopted as a decision with minor amendments. Further, India made an intervention appealing to China to phase out tiger farming and eliminate stockpiles of Asian big cats body parts and derivatives. The importance of continuing the ban on trade of body parts of tigers was emphasized.

Tiger census report

1434. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to the Wildlife Institute of India's latest tiger census report, the Naxalites are destroying the tiger reserves in the country;